IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 8 and 14 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein and amend the claims as follows.

1. (Amended) A universal auction system having a programmable auction server, the programmable auction server comprising:

a plurality of auction modules wherein at least one auction module corresponds to at least one function of an auction selected from the group consisting of a bid verifier, an information manager, a clearer, a registration manager, a bid transformer, and a proxy bidder, the bid transformer implements one of predetermined discriminating allocation market protocols and arbitrarily established discriminating allocation market protocols.

2. (Amended) The programmable auction server as in claim 1, further comprising:

auction modules wherein at least one auction specification module performs at least one transaction selected from the group consisting of a bid verification transaction, an information management transaction, a clearing transaction, a bid transformation transaction, and a registration transaction.

5. (Amended) The programmable auction server as in claim 1, at least one phase comprising an interval in which at least one transaction occurs, the transaction is selected from the group consisting of submitting a bid, admitting a bid, withdrawing a bid, and replacing a bid.

19. (Amended) The universal auction system as in claim 22, the market specification console further comprising a plurality of rules wherein at least one rule is user-modifiable.

15. (Amended) A method of designing a universal auction system comprising:

generating a plurality of auction modules in a programmable auction server, wherein at least one auction modules corresponds to at least one function of an auction selected from the group consisting of a bid verifier, an information manager, a clearer, and a registration manager; and

implementing at least one transaction selected from the group consisting of a bid verification, and a bid transformation, wherein the bid transformation is based upon one of predetermined discriminating allocation market protocols and arbitrarily established discriminating allocation market protocols.

Please add the following claims:

22. (New) A universal auction system comprising:

a programmable auction server which includes a bid transformer that implements arbitrarily established discriminating allocation market protocols specified by at least one trading primitive, a bid verifier that determines acceptable bids, and a script interpreter for interpreting script protocol;

a market specification console, connected to the programmable auction server during a network interaction, adapted to support a plurality of discriminating allocation market protocols, and the market specification console includes a script generator for translating trading primitives to temporal protocol script.

23. (New) The universal auction system as in claim 22, wherein the market specification console is coupled to a programmable auction server in which the programmable auction server is adapted to receive market protocols from the market specification console, the market specification console having a graphic user interface.